

In the Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A combination including a receptacle  
2 connector that is to be mounted on a counterpart member,  
3 and a plug connector that is connected to an electric wire  
4 or a flat type flexible cable and is to be connected to the  
5 receptacle connector, wherein the combination has features  
6 as follows with reference to a depth direction, a width  
7 direction and a thickness direction all being perpendicular  
8 to each other,

9 the plug connector, when seen in the thickness  
10 direction, has a shape substantially a rectangle having  
11 respective sides thereof extending in the depth direction  
12 and the width direction, the plug connector includes a  
13 contact that is exposed on at least one face thereof in the  
14 thickness direction at an inward edge in the depth  
15 direction, and the plug connector includes respectively a  
16 plug width fitting face that faces outward in the width  
17 direction as well as a plug depth fitting face that faces  
18 outward in the depth direction respectively provided at two  
19 locations spaced from each other in the width direction,

20 the receptacle connector comprises

21 a receptacle connector body having a groove  
22 bounded between two transverse walls spaced apart and  
23 arranged opposite each other in the thickness  
24 direction and a vertical wall extending between the  
25 two transverse walls, wherein the groove opens outward  
26 in the depth direction and is adapted to have the

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inward edge of the plug connector inserted therein,  
and wherein the receptacle connector body includes at  
least an insulating part thereof that is insulating,

a conductive contact comprising a contacting part  
that is able to undergo elastic deformation in the  
thickness direction in the groove of the receptacle  
connector body and that is adapted to contact the  
contact of the plug connector, and a connecting part  
adapted to be connected to the counterpart member, the  
conductive contact being provided in the insulating  
part of the receptacle connector body, and

a pair of latch arms extending outward in the  
depth direction from two locations that are spaced  
from each other in the width direction on the  
receptacle connector body, and wherein the latch arms  
are ~~[[able]]~~ adapted and constructed to undergo  
elastic deformation in the width direction,

and each latch arm is provided with a retaining part  
projecting inward in the width direction, and each said  
retaining part respectively includes a guiding part that  
generates a component force acting outward in the width  
direction ~~[[from]]~~ so as to outwardly elastically deflect  
each said latch arm respectively due to a pressing force  
acting on the guiding part toward the counterpart member in  
the thickness direction, a receptacle width fitting face  
facing inward in the width direction and adapted to  
cooperate with the plug width fitting face of the plug  
connector, and a receptacle depth fitting face facing

55 inward in the depth direction and adapted to cooperate with  
56 the plug depth fitting face of the plug connector.

1 2. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein

3 each said retaining part is, when seen in the  
4 thickness direction, substantially a rectangle having  
5 respective sides thereof extending in the depth direction  
6 and the width direction,

7 the guiding part comprises a portion of the retaining  
8 part on a face thereof opposite the counterpart member and  
9 tilting inward in the width direction and toward the  
10 counterpart member, or a chamfered corner inward in the  
11 width direction and inward in the depth direction of the  
12 retaining part,

13 the receptacle width fitting face comprises an inward  
14 end face in the width direction of the retaining part, and

15 the receptacle depth fitting face comprises an inward  
16 end face in the depth direction of the retaining part.

Claim 3 (canceled).

1 4. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 2, wherein

3 the receptacle connector further comprises a metallic  
4 cover on a surface of the receptacle connector body on the  
5 side opposite to the counterpart member, and

6 the two latch arms are made of a metal, and root ends  
7 of the respective latch arms are integrally provided on  
8 respective ends in the width direction of the metallic  
9 cover.

Claims 5, 6, 7 (canceled).

1 8. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 4,

3 the plug connector comprising an insulating  
4 plate-shaped plug connector body that has the shape  
5 substantially a rectangle,

6 the contact having conductivity and being provided on  
7 the plug connector body, the contact comprising a  
8 contacting part being exposed at the inward edge in the  
9 depth direction of the plug connector body at least on one  
10 face thereof in the thickness direction and a connecting  
11 part connected to the electric wire or the flat type  
12 flexible cable, and

13 the plug width fitting face and the plug depth fitting  
14 face being provided on the plug connector body at the two  
15 locations spaced from each other in the width direction  
16 thereof.

Claims 9, 10, 11 (canceled).

1 12. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 8, wherein the plug connector body has concaved parts

3 concaving in the thickness direction at corners of the plug  
4 connector body at respective ends thereof in the width  
5 direction and facing outward in the depth direction, and  
6 the concaved parts are bounded respectively by first walls  
7 facing outward in the width direction and forming the plug  
8 width fitting faces as well as second walls facing outward  
9 in the depth direction and forming the plug depth fitting  
10 faces.

1 13. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 2,

3 the plug connector comprising an insulating  
4 plate-shaped plug connector body that has the shape  
5 substantially a rectangle,

6 the contact having conductivity and being provided on  
7 the plug connector body, the contact comprising a  
8 contacting part being exposed at the inward edge in the  
9 depth direction of the plug connector body at least on one  
10 face thereof in the thickness direction and a connecting  
11 part connected to the electric wire or the flat type  
12 flexible cable, and

13 the plug width fitting face and the plug depth fitting  
14 face being provided on the plug connector body at the two  
15 locations spaced from each other in the width direction  
16 thereof.

1 14. (previously presented) The combination as recited in  
2 claim 13, wherein the plug connector body has concaved

parts concaving in the thickness direction at corners of the plug connector body at respective ends thereof in the width direction and facing outward in the depth direction, and the concaved parts are bounded respectively by first walls facing outward in the width direction and forming the plug width fitting faces as well as second walls facing outward in the depth direction and forming the plug depth fitting faces.

15. (previously presented) The combination as recited in claim 1, wherein

the receptacle connector further comprises a metallic cover on a surface of the receptacle connector body on the side opposite to the counterpart member, and

the two latch arms are made of a metal, and root ends of the respective latch arms are integrally provided on respective ends in the width direction of the metallic cover.

16. (previously presented) The combination as recited in claim 15,

the plug connector comprising an insulating plate-shaped plug connector body that has the shape substantially a rectangle,

the contact having conductivity and being provided on the plug connector body, the contact comprising a contacting part being exposed at the inward edge in the depth direction of the plug connector body at least on one

face thereof in the thickness direction and a connecting part connected to the electric wire or the flat type flexible cable, and

the plug width fitting face and the plug depth fitting face being provided on the plug connector body at the two locations spaced from each other in the width direction thereof.

17. (previously presented) The combination as recited in claim 16, wherein the plug connector body has concaved parts concaving in the thickness direction at corners of the plug connector body at respective ends thereof in the width direction and facing outward in the depth direction, and the concaved parts are bounded respectively by first walls facing outward in the width direction and forming the plug width fitting faces as well as second walls facing outward in the depth direction and forming the plug depth fitting faces.

18. (previously presented) The combination as recited in claim 1,

the plug connector comprising an insulating plate-shaped plug connector body that has the shape substantially a rectangle,

the contact having conductivity and being provided on the plug connector body, the contact comprising a contacting part being exposed at the inward edge in the depth direction of the plug connector body at least on one

face thereof in the thickness direction and a connecting part connected to the electric wire or the flat type flexible cable, and

the plug width fitting face and the plug depth fitting face being provided on the plug connector body at the two locations spaced from each other in the width direction thereof.

19. (previously presented) The combination as recited in claim 18, wherein the plug connector body has concaved parts concaving in the thickness direction at corners of the plug connector body at respective ends thereof in the width direction and facing outward in the depth direction, and the concaved parts are bounded respectively by first walls facing outward in the width direction and forming the plug width fitting faces as well as second walls facing outward in the depth direction and forming the plug depth fitting faces.

20. (currently amended) An electrical connection arrangement for connecting a flexible conductor to an article, said connection arrangement comprising:

a receptacle connector that is adapted to be mounted on the article and that comprises:

a receptacle body that comprises an insulating receptacle body part and that bounds an elongated receptacle socket extending longitudinally therealong in a width direction along a socket plane,



10 a conductive receptacle contact secured to said  
11 receptacle body and including a first contacting part  
12 and a first connecting part, wherein said first  
13 contacting part is exposed in said receptacle socket  
14 and is elastically flexibly deflectable in a thickness  
15 direction perpendicular to said socket plane, and  
16 wherein said first connecting part is exposed from  
17 said receptacle body and is adapted to be electrically  
18 connected to the article,

19 two latch arms that extend from said receptacle  
20 body parallel to each other in a depth direction  
21 perpendicular to said width direction and said  
22 thickness direction, and that are spaced apart from  
23 each other in said width direction, and that are  
24 elastically flexibly deflectable in said width  
25 direction, and

26 a respective retaining part provided on a  
27 respective free end of each respective latch arm of  
28 said latch arms, wherein each said retaining part  
29 respectively comprises a first retaining face that  
30 faces toward said receptacle body in said depth  
31 direction, a second retaining face that faces toward  
32 an opposite one of said retaining parts in said width  
33 direction, and a deflection guide part configured to  
34 generate a component force acting on said respective  
35 retaining part outwardly in said width direction away  
36 from said opposite one of said retaining parts so as  
37 to outwardly elastically deflect each said latch arm

38           respectively when a pressing force is exerted onto  
39           said deflection guide part in said thickness  
40           direction;

41           and

42           a plug connector that is adapted to be connected to  
43           the flexible conductor and that comprises:

44                 a plug body that comprises an insulating plug  
45                 body part and that includes a forward plug end  
46                 configured and adapted to be inserted into said  
47                 receptacle socket, and

48                 a conductive plug contact secured to said plug  
49                 body and including a second contacting part and a  
50                 second connecting part, wherein said second contacting  
51                 part is exposed at said forward plug end and is  
52                 adapted to contact said first contacting part in said  
53                 receptacle socket when said forward plug end is  
54                 inserted into said receptacle socket, and wherein said  
55                 second connecting part is configured and adapted to be  
56                 connected to the flexible conductor;

57           and wherein

58                 said plug body includes two pressing portions  
59                 positioned and adapted to press against and exert said  
60                 pressing force onto said deflection guide parts of said  
61                 receptacle connector when said forward plug end has been  
62                 partly inserted into said receptacle socket at a tilt angle  
63                 about said width direction relative to said socket plane  
64                 and then said plug connector is pressed toward and into  
65                 planar alignment with said socket plane so that thereby

66 said latch arms are outwardly elastically deflected until  
67 said pressing portions move past and clear said deflection  
68 guide parts, whereupon said plug connector becomes engaged  
69 with said receptacle connector,

70 said plug body further includes two first engaging  
71 faces that face away from said forward plug end and said  
72 receptacle body in said depth direction and that are  
73 respectively engaged by said first retaining faces of said  
74 receptacle connector when said forward plug end is inserted  
75 into said receptacle socket and said plug connector is  
76 engaged with said receptacle connector, and

77 said plug body further includes two second engaging  
78 faces that face outwardly away from one another in said  
79 width direction and that are respectively engaged by said  
80 second retaining faces of said receptacle connector when  
81 said forward plug end is inserted into said receptacle  
82 socket and said plug connector is engaged with said  
83 receptacle connector.

1 21. (previously presented) The electrical connection  
2 arrangement according to claim 20, further in combination  
3 with said flexible conductor which is selected from the  
4 group consisting of flexible electrical wires and flat  
5 flexible electrical cables, wherein said flexible conductor  
6 is connected to said second connecting part of said plug  
7 contact of said plug connector.

1 22. (previously presented) The electrical connection  
2 arrangement according to claim 20, wherein

3 each said retaining part comprises a bent metal member  
4 having a fixed end that is fixed to said free end of said  
5 respective latch arm, a first tab bent from said fixed end  
6 inwardly in said width direction to a bent edge toward said  
7 opposite one of said retaining parts, and a second tab bent  
8 from said bent edge outwardly in said width direction away  
9 from said opposite one of said retaining parts and  
10 terminating at a free terminal edge,

11 said second tab forms said deflection guide part,

12 said bent edge forms said second retaining face, and

13 a side edge along said first tab, said bent edge and  
14 said second tab forms said first retaining face.

1 23. (previously presented) The electrical connection  
2 arrangement according to claim 22, wherein said second tab  
3 transitioning to said bent edge and forming said deflection  
4 guide part slopes or curves about said depth direction  
5 relative to said socket plane.

1 24. (currently amended) The electrical connection arrangement  
2 according to claim 20, wherein said receptacle body further  
3 comprises a metal cover extending along and connected to  
4 said insulating receptacle body part, and said latch arms  
5 are ~~receptive~~ respective metal elements protruding  
6 integrally from and forming one piece with said metal  
7 cover.

1 25. (previously presented) The electrical connection  
2 arrangement according to claim 20, wherein said plug body  
3 has inverted corner recesses at corners thereof oriented  
4 opposite said forward plug end in said depth direction and  
5 opposite one another in said width direction, and wherein  
6 said inverted corner recesses each respectively are bounded  
7 by a first wall forming one of said first engaging faces  
8 and a second wall forming one of said second engaging  
9 faces.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]